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1. All officials in the DDR Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry are convinced that there will be a general derationing of food items before the end of the year and before the voting takes place in the Fall. Food items going off the ration will be only those pertaining to plant products with the exception of fats produced from plants. Animal products such as meat and fats, and dairy products such as eggs and milk will remain on the ration. Two further general price reductions are planned in the HO shops before this derationing takes place. There is no sign that food rationing will be reimposed after the Fall elections. There is no meat being stored in any quantity anywhere beyond normal stocking for marketing purposes. There are simply not enough stocks on hand for such a move.
2. There are faculties for Agricultural schooling in the following universities in the DDR: Greifswald and Rostock in Mecklenburg; Humboldt in Berlin; Halle in Sachsen-Anhalt; Jena in Thuringen; Technische Hochschule fuer Landwirtschaft in Leipzig in Sachsen; and two Forst-Hochschulen in Brandenburg. The requirements for the Diplom-Landwirt degree are so high in the east zone (because of the various bureaucratic organizations devoting their attention to farming), that there is a lack of about 2,500 such trained personnel at the present time. There are approximately 1,500 students in the six semesters at the universities at present, of which approximately 500 will be graduated this year. There are in addition two political administrative schools for Agricultural Administration in Brandenburg, at Forst Zinna and at Genshagen. These give no training in technical matters to any appreciable extent. The former school has approximately 1200 students taking courses from 4 months to 2 years, depending on whether or not they have had previous experience. In the latter school there are agricultural trade schools which train farm youths from 18 to 21 years of age as Farm Managers.
3. There has been no purge of the higher-ups in the large cooperatives in Mecklenburg as such, and no action has been taken which might indicate pressure on the part of the SED towards decentralization. In

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the Spring of 1950 the former Raiffeisen cooperatives were finally dissolved and reorganized into Land, Kreis, and village cooperatives. In the course of this maneuver, many former officials of the Raiffeisen cooperatives were taken over into the new organizations. Several of these have turned out to be "westlich orientiert", as proved by the fact that in Kreis Rostock such officials turned large amounts of cash over to the western zone Raiffeisen groups. They were caught doing this and tried and sentenced to prison terms for economic sabotage.

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